(d) the steps being taken to rectify the situation?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) NTPC Ltd. invited bids through International Competitive Bidding (ICB) route for procurement of natural gas @ 132 Trillion British Thermal Units (Tbtu) per annum for a period of 17 years. Many leading national and international bidders had participated in the bidding. After the qualification process, the Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued in April, 2003.

The terms and conditions of the Draft Agreement to be signed by the prospective bidders, were included in the RFP documents. At this stage, various deviations sought by the bidders were discussed with them by NTPC Ltd. Based on the discussion, NTPC Ltd. accepted a number of deviations sought by the bidders and accordingly, modification in the Draft Agreement was carried out and a final amendment was issued to all the bidders. However, some deviations sought by the bidders could not be accepted by NTPC Ltd. Bidders had option to submit a supplementary price bid on acceptance of Final Amendment.

After issuance of the final amendment, only three bidders participated in the final bidding. The bidders who submitted the final bid, have not informed NTPC Ltd. that the terms and conditions for supply of gas were against international practices. Out of the three bids, one bid was from M/s Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) to supply gas by pipeline, the other bid was from Petronas, Malaysia, to supply Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) on CIF (Cost including Insurance, Freight) basis and the third from Petronet LNG Ltd. to receive the LNG, regasify the same and supply to Power Plants.

(c) and (d) There was no failure of bidding process. M/s RIL, wbo was the lowest bidder in the International Bidding, was issued a Letter of Intent (LOI), which was duly accepted by them. However, M/s RIL did not sign Gas Sale and Purchase Agreement (GSPA), affecting the commissioning schedule of Kawas and Gandhar Power Projects during the Tenth Five Year Plan. The projects are now identified in the Eleventh Plan subject to signing of GSP A by M/s. RIL. The completion of the projects will take approximately 36 to 48 months from the date of signing of GSPA by M/s RIL. NTPC Ltd. has filed a suit in the Bombay High Court against RIL for specific performance of the contract. The matter is *sub-judice*.

Energy cooperation among ASEAN countries

2867. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 10 member ASEAN countries, who attended the East Asia Summit, have agreed to strengthen and promote energy cooperation, while showing concern over the negative impact of high oil prices on economic growth and development in the region; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) At the 2nd East Asia Summit (EAS), held on 15th January, 2007 in Cebu, Philippines, a special session of energy, to achieve the shared goal of ensuring affordable energy

sources for development in the region, was held. Discussion among the 16 Heads of State/Governments of the member countries of ASEAN, Australia, China, India, Japan, republic of Korea and New Zealand covered issues relating to energy security, renewable and alternative energy sources, energy efficiency and conservation and climate change.

Power position in the country

2868. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the Economic Advisory Council of Prime Minister Agriculture and Power are the two major stumbling blocks to attain high economic growth and if so, what is the strategy to mitigate the problem or to avert it;

(b) the details of power production, utilization and deficit or surplus, State-wise; and

(c) the measures to save electrical energy and to go for substitutes for it?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir. According to the Economic Outlook 2006-07, in the medium and long term, the principal constraints to sustaining of high rates of economic growth in India drive from two sources, namely the farm sector and the power sector.

(b) During April–July, 2007, the energy and peak shortage in the country were 19,019 MU (7.9%) and 13,685 MW (13.4%) respectively. The state-wise availability, requirement and resultant power supply position in the country during July, 2007 and April–July, 2007 are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) The various measures to save electrical energy include the following:

(i) Reduction of Aggregate Technical and commercial (AT&C) losses in Low Tension (LT) distribution system by installation of efficient switched capacitors and Transformers.

(ii) Adoption of High Voltage Distribution System (HVDS).

(iii) Computerized Load Management Scheme at LT level through segregation of agricultural load from other loads to reduce peak load.

(iv) Energy Audit of Power Systems up to LT level to pin point excessive loss area.

(v) Introduction of Time of Day (ToD) electronic meters and introduction of ToD tariff.

(vi) Improvement of efficiency of agricultural pump sets.

(vii) Encourage energy efficient buildings.

(viii) Use of Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFL) in place of incandescent bulbs.

In addition, the Ministry of Power had started an energy conservation campaign to sensitize the users to save electricity. The Ministry of Power has also issued the Energy Conservation Building Code to save electricity by promoting energy efficient buildings.